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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 SS-15 NSCE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SSO-00 /076 W
----------095853 141706Z /53
O 141639Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1818
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 11879

USIA FOR IAA

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, EEC, CG, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND EC PRESIDENCY APPEAL FOR
CLEMENCY FOR NGUZA

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SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, IN HIS EC PRESIDENCY
ROLE AS WELL AS IN BEHALF OF BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, TO
TELEPHONE PRESIDENT MOBUTU SEPTEMBER 14 AND ASK FOR CLEMENCY
FOR FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ZAIRE DESK OFFICER (JAENEN) TOLD
US THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, IN HIS EC PRESIDENCY

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ROLE, AS WELL AS IN BEHALF OF BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, WILL TELEPHONE PRESIDENT MOBUTU SEPTEMBER 14 AND ASK FOR CLEMENCY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS FOR CONDEMNED FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA KARL-I-BOND. JAENEN SAID BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA WILL FOLLOW UP WITH A FORMAL DEMARCHE ON BEHALF OF THE NINE AND GOB. JAENEN SAID PROPOSAL OF A JOINT NINE DEMARCHE WAS DISCUSSED THE FIRST DAY OF THE SEPTEMBER 13-14 EC NINE AFRICAN EXPERTS WORKING GROUP MEETING HERE, AND TELEGRAPHIC CONCURRENCE WAS OBTAINED THAT SAME AFTERNOON FROM EC CAPITALS.

2. IN A SEPTEMBER 14 PRESS RELEASE THAT DISCUSSES IN GENERAL TERMS THE ABOVE DEMARCHES, THE MFA'S PRESS SPOKES-MAN SAID THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WAS REPLYING TO A ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT NOTE ABOUT BELGIAN CITIZEN JULES WOLF'S PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOZ FOR NOT BEING ADMITTED INTO ZAIRE TO HELP DEFEND NGUZA IN COURT. MFA PRESS RELEASE (AND, ACCORDING TO JAENEN, OFFICIAL BELGIAN REPLY TO GOZ NOTE) STRESSED POINT THAT BELGIAN CITIZENS AND MEDIA ENJOY FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

3. JAENEN TOLD US THAT WOLF, CHAIRMAN OF BELGIAN CHAPTER OF LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WAS HIRED BY MRS. NGUZA, WHO RESIDES IN BRUSSELS, AND NOT BY NGUZA. JAENEN SAID HE THOUGHT NGUZA "QUITE RIGHTLY" PREFERRED TO HAVE LOCAL ZAIRIAN LAWYERS RATHER THAN A BELGIAN LAWYER DEFENDING CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM.

4. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF MFA PRESS RELEASE.

BEGIN TEXT:

DEMARCHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES NOTABLY BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH IS CURRENTLY ASSUMING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THE GOAL OF THESE DEMARCHES IS TO APPEAL TO THE CLEMENCY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ZAIRIAN REPUBLIC WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING CLEMENCY FOR MR. NGUZA FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS.

WITH RESPECT TO THE NOTE DELIVERED BY THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT ON SEPTEMBER 12 TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING PARTICULARLY THE DECLARATIONS BY MR. WOLF AND THE COMMENTARY BY RTB, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS IN CONTACT WITH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS REMINDED THAT BELGIAN CITIZENS AND MEDIA HAVE, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE LAW, ENTIRE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION.

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THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT THUS CANNOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY EITHER FOR THE STATEMENTS OF A BELGIAN CITIZEN NOR FOR THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE MEDIA, WHOSE EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE IS TOTAL EVEN IF THEY HAVE A PARA-STATAL STATUS. END TEXT. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1283393
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND EC PRESIDENCY APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY FOR NGUZA CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, CG, BE, EEC, (SIMONET, HENRI), (MOBUTU SESEKO), (NGUZA KARL-I-BOND)
To: STATE KINSHASA
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009